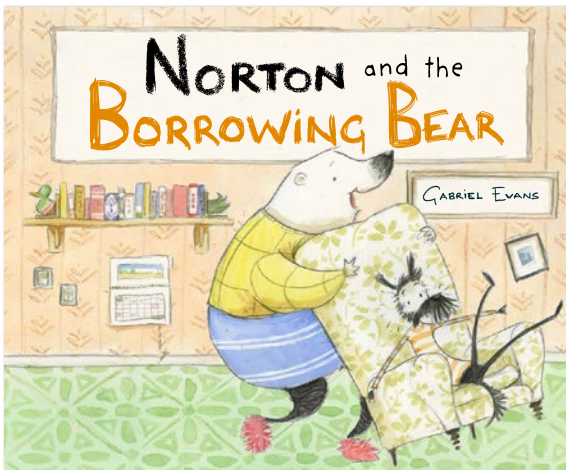


Teachers' notes for Norton and the Borrowing Bear



Title:	Norton and the Borrowing Bear
Author:	Gabriel Evans
ISBN:	9780645069655

ABOUT THE BOOK

SYNOPSIS

Wouldn't it be fun to have a friend living right next door to you? Well, as Norton discovers, it can certainly pose some challenges when that friend wants to borrow all of your favourite things.

This is a story about setting limits and learning to accept your friends, flaws and all.

THEMES

- Sharing
- Lending
- Boundary setting
- Manners
- Friendship

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Gabriel Evans is an internationally published children's picture book illustrator and author from Western Australia. He has been creating picture books professionally since the age of seventeen. His first book with Berbay, *Norton and the Bear*, was shortlisted for CBCA Picture Book of the Year. He is also the inaugural recipient of the SCBWI ANZ Established Illustrator Award.

When he's not creating picture books, Gabriel runs workshops and talks in schools and libraries around Australia, from Melbourne and Sydney to remote communities in the Kimberley and Pilbara.

Gabriel works from a small, messy studio near a river. His hobbies include drinking tea, growing trees and searching for the perfect artist's beret.

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FOR THE CLASSROOM

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Look at the front and back endpapers. How are they different? What do you think the author is trying to show by making them this way?
- Norton lends the Bear his fluffy slippers because he wants to be polite. How could he have handled this situation differently? Can you think of ways Norton could have said no without offending the Bear?
- Does Norton's body language give us clues about how he's feeling? What can you tell from his expressions?
- What does the Bear's body language tell us after Norton confronts him? How is the Bear feeling?
- Sometimes friends have disagreements. Have you ever had to tell a friend something he or she did that bothered you, the way Norton had to tell the Bear? How did your friend respond?
- Why do you think the Bear wanted to borrow so many of Norton's things in the first place? Was it just about needing to fill his new house? Support your answer with clues from the text.
- Norton forgives the Bear and accepts his friendship. Is this what you would have done? Why or why not?

ACTIVITIES

- Design your own front cover for this book. What scene will you show and why?
- Make a list or draw pictures of some things you have in common with one of your close friends. Try to find at least four shared interests.
- Write or draw a picture of three things you would be willing to share with a friend and one thing you would rather not share. Now swap lists with your neighbour and practise the ways you would say 'no' to sharing the item you would prefer not to share.
- In this story, Norton experiences a whole range of emotions. Can you make a chart of Norton's feelings and show how they change over the course of the narrative?
- How would you continue this story? Draw or write what you think will happen next to Norton and the Bear.

